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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 21, 1983
TO: Division File
FROM: Glenn Sternard *gjs*
SUBJECT: 03144015 - Cook County - Elk Grove Village/Film Recovery

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.

MAY 16 1983



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STATE OF ILLINOIS

On April 5, 1983, Brad Benning and I met Howard Chinn at Film Recovery System, 1855 Greenleaf, Elk Grove Village. Howard requested that we obtain samples from Film Recovery. We met with Steve O'Neill, President and Glenn Love of FRS. The company has two buildings, 1) east building - served as a warehouse for unprocessed film, and 2) west building - housed process tanks.

The Film Recovery System Corp. site activity is that of silver recovery from photographic and xray negatives. Chopped up film is deposited in one of 72 - 1000 gallon process tanks containing a cyanide solution. The cyanide bonds with the silver which is then plated out on stainless steel. Plating tanks through which the silver bearing cyanide solution is circulated have 135 gallon capacity each. The metal is then smelted. The chips typically have a 3 day residence time in the process tanks after which they are removed, washed in H₂O and a cyanide destruct solution containing Sodium Hypochlorite. The plastic "chips" are then removed.

The process liquid is considered spent after approximately 6 months, at which time they are sent to an evaporator which evaporates the 1000 gallons in 24 hours. The remaining sludge is dried and sent for silver recovery, at an off-site location.

Quality control appeared to be by spot check, no continuous monitoring system is used on the cyanide destruct system. Mr. O'Neill stated that the plastic chips have approximately 30 ppm cyanide after process.

The site is currently closed as per agreement with Cook County E.P.A. which apparently got involved as a result of an employee death in the process building. Mr. O'Neill stated that he has, when he again begins operation, 75 days of material to finish processing before he shuts down permanently, as per agreement with Cook County E.P.A. The next hearing is scheduled for 4/12/83, at Cook County E.P.A.

We then discussed the disposal/storage of the plastic chips, the waste from the recovery process. The locations of several leasing companies having trailers on site were provided by Mr. O'Neill and Glenn Love.

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|--|---|-------------|
| 1) American Interstate, 1111 W. Pershing, 254-3180. | - | 28 Trailers |
| 2) Argo Rent-A-Trailer, P.O. Box 127, Worth, 594-3113. | | 37 Trailers |
| 3) Gemini Leasing, 6201 S. East, Hodgkins, 352-9290. | | 39 Trailers |
| 4) Trailers Unltd., 6404 Joliet Road, Countryside, 482-3933. | | 16 Trailers |
| 5) Livco, 8700 Waukegan, Morton Grove, 965-5445. | | 18 Trailers |
| 6) J. Fiorite, 3739 N. Podlin, Franklin Park, 595-8835. | | 32 Trailers |

Mr. O'Neill stated that he had shipped 3 trailers from the facility on 4/5/83, apparently to Dixon, Illinois.

When the plant was in full operation the site produced 1-2 trucks per day or 65,000 lbs. per day.

Mr. O'Neill stated that he would be willing to bond up to \$100,000 for the shipment of the waste chips to Dixon where he plans to obtain machinery designed to pelletize the plastic for resale. He has previously sold the chips to various companies which use the plastic after processing.

However, it seems that he presently has no equipment in Dixon for the reprocessing. A decision will be requested from the Permit Section as to whether this material must be handled as a special waste or hazardous, pending the results of the sample analysis.

Samples were obtained from three sources:

- X201 - wet sludge east building
- X202 - dry sludge drums along east wall
- X203 - liquid-brown from evaporation tank (field pH approx. 9)

A circuit of the outside of the buildings revealed the blue chips present on the soil in front of the buildings noted earlier (3/22/83).

Lynn Crivello and Jack Barnette have obtained samples of the chips from trailers at Gemini Leasing in response to an anonymous tip referred to IEPA by Mayor Noel Cummings, Hodgkins (3/31/83).

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GJS:pgb

cc: Northern Region
Joe Drazik, Assistant Attorney General